Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /075 W

-----191610Z 126143 /40

R 182245Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY QUITO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3602 INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ DIA

SECDEF

JCS AMEMBASS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ AMEMBASSY LIMA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 1821

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EC MASS SU

SUBJECT: SOVIET OVERTURES TO ECUADOREAN MILITARY

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE AT NAVAL CEREMONY MARCH 18, VADM RENAN OLMEDO, CHAIRMAN OF ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND, MENTIONED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHLIAPNIKOV HAD MADE CALLS ON HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS RECENTLY. OLMEDO SAID CHLIAPNIKOV HAD VISITED JOINT COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE AND MADE WHAT OLMEDO DESCRIBED AS A "VERY ATTRACTIVE OFFER" FOR THE SALE OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ONE OF THE QUID PRO QUOS WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY ATTACHE OFFICE, WHICH IS FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED BY THE MILITARY, ADDED OLMEDO. OLMEDO INDICATED THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SOVIETS AND HAD REFUSED TO MEET WITH THEM, FOISTING THEM OFF ON SLIGHTLY LOWER CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVELS. HE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST SOVIET SALESMANSHIP IN VIEW OF THE SEDUCTIVE TERMS THEY WERE OFFERING AND THE ABSENCE OF CONCRETE ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY SOURCES.

2. COMMENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF OLMEDO'S REPORT, NOR THAT HE IS INFORMING THE EMBASSY WITH

THE HOPE THAT IT WILL INFLUENCE THE USG'S DISPOSITION TO
SELL CERTAIN TYPES OF ARMS TO ECUADOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, EQUIPMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY SALES

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Subject: SOVIET OVERTURES TO ECUADOREAN MILITARY TAGS: MASS, PFOR, EC, SU, US, (OLMEDO, VADM RENAN)

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